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SENATE BILL 160

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Sue Wilson Beffort

AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN; REQUIRING A PRESCHOOL TEACHER CREDENTIAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LEAD TEACHERS IN A LICENSED FACILITY OR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN THREE TO FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of Chapter 32A, Article 16 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--Sections 1 through 4 of this act may be cited as the "Preschool Teacher Credentialing Act"."

Section 2. A new section of Chapter 32A, Article 16 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Preschool Teacher Credentialing Act:

A. "lead teacher" means a teacher who is

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1 responsible for planning for and teaching in an early childhood
2 education classroom; and

3 B. "preschool credential" means a credential issued
4 by the department that is available to a person who teaches or
5 has taught in a classroom with children ages three to five and
6 who has one of the following combinations of qualifications:

7 (1) a minimum of five years working in a
8 licensed early childhood education or preschool program,
9 successful completion of the New Mexico teacher competency test
10 in early childhood education and a portfolio identifying prior
11 early childhood education;

12 (2) a child care professional, child
13 development associate or preschool associate credential, a
14 minimum of three years working in a licensed early childhood
15 education or preschool program and successful completion of the
16 New Mexico teacher competency test in early childhood
17 development;

18 (3) a New Mexico child development certificate
19 issued by the department;

20 (4) an associate degree in early childhood
21 education; or

22 (5) a bachelor of arts degree in a related
23 area with a minimum of nine hours of early childhood
24 education."

25 Section 3. A new section of Chapter 32A, Article 16 NMSA

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1 1978 is enacted to read:

2 "[NEW MATERIAL] PRESCHOOL CREDENTIAL REQUIRED.--By January
3 1, 2012, a lead teacher in a licensed early childhood facility,
4 preschool facility or department pre-kindergarten program shall
5 hold a preschool credential issued by the department."

6 Section 4. A new section of Chapter 32A, Article 16 NMSA
7 1978 is enacted to read:

8 "[NEW MATERIAL] CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIRED.--A lead
9 teacher holding a credential in an early childhood education or
10 preschool program licensed by the department shall complete at
11 least thirty hours of continuing education in early childhood
12 education annually."

13 Section 5. Section 32A-16-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989,
14 Chapter 290, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

15 "32A-16-4. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD.--The child
16 development board shall:

17 A. recommend to the secretary of children, youth
18 and families the hiring of a director of child development;

19 B. consider and adopt licensure requirements,
20 policies and procedures for individuals working in licensed or
21 registered health facilities with children from birth to age
22 five; provided that such licensure requirements shall not apply
23 to individuals working in group homes pursuant to Section
24 9-8-13 NMSA 1978 and provided that the license requirements
25 conform to the provisions of the Preschool Teacher

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1 Credentialing Act;

2 C. consider and make recommendations to the public
3 education department regarding additional licensure
4 requirements for public school personnel working with public
5 school children up to age eight;

6 D. work with other state agencies to promote a
7 uniform and comprehensive method of licensing child care
8 personnel; provided that the licensing conforms to the
9 provisions of the Preschool Teacher Credentialing Act;

10 E. develop and adopt policies and procedures for
11 the office of child development;

12 F. develop levels of licensure for nonpublic school
13 personnel depending upon the age of children served, the
14 training facility used and the program in which the individual
15 is employed; provided that the levels conform to the provisions
16 of the Preschool Teacher Credentialing Act;

17 G. work with the department of health to develop
18 levels of licensure for nonpublic school personnel serving
19 children who are developmentally delayed or at risk for
20 developmental delay, birth through two years;

21 H. develop and adopt program criteria for
22 state-funded preschool programs serving children from birth to
23 age five; provided that criteria shall not apply to programs
24 serving children who have a developmental delay or are at risk
25 for developing a delay, birth through two years, and programs

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1 serving children who have a developmental delay, three through
2 five years; and

3 I. work with other state agencies to monitor the
4 implementation of state-funded preschool program criteria."

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